Penidng Cases Under COFEPOSA

990. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of such cases pertaining to COFEPOSA have been pending in which the persons against whom arrest orders have been issued are absconding;

(b) whether such cases are piling up and no action has been initiated;

(c) if so, the details of such cases as on date; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to review such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Detention Orders under COFEPOSA Act, 1974 are passed by specifiied Detaining Authorities of the State Governments and of the Central Government. In some cases detention orders remain unexecuted as the concerned persons are not available at the known address and they are absconding. Such cases are reviewed and necessary action is initiated by the concerned authorities. The Executing Authority *viz.* the jurisdictional police continue with their efforts to apprehend such persons. The authority which detected the case leading to issue of detention order also make efforts and assist the police authorities in this regard. Further, as provided in the Act; the Appropriate Govt. (*i.e.* the Central Govt. or the State Govt. as the case may be) notify in the Official Gazette directing such persons to appear before the specified officer. On his failure to comply with the direction, the appropriate Govt. make a report to the jurisdictional Magistrate to initiate process for attachement of property under Cr. P.C.

Target Fixed For Collection of Customs and Excise

991. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The details of targets for customs and excise collections fixed for the current financial year, zone/collectorate-wise;

(b) the amount of customs and excise actually collected by such collectorates during the last six months and the amount collected in corresponding period during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what has been the overall impact of such collection on the economy and whether Government are satisfied with its collection capacity/operation; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the operation in near future and in what manner the deficit target is to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) All India Targets for Customs and Central Excise for 1998-99 are Rs. 48148 and 57425 crores respectively. Collectorate-wise targets set for internal control and monitoring. These may vary from time to time depending upon the developments taking place in the zone. These targets do not have any parliamentary sanctions.

(b) Revenue collection (in Rs. Crores) for the first half of the last three years and the current year are as under:—

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Customs	15885	19733	19413	19503
Excise	18680	19946	20989	21957

(c) and (d) Slow growth of tax revenue tends to raise the fiscal deficit of Government, which can have adverse effects on the economy. Government is undertaking measures to improve tax collections and contain fiscal deficit.